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ABSTRACT

To develop a taxonomy of Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) critics, a study associated professed judging philosophy and responses to survey questions with ballot behavior and elaborated judging profiles. Subjects were debate critics who judged rounds at CEDA tournaments in the Northeast during the Spring 1989 season. In all, 13 critics had sufficient quantities of all three measures (questionnaire, philosophy statement, and ballots) to be included in the pilot study. First, analysis revealed that traditional paradigms are associated more strongly to key discriminators than are merged or new profile types. Second, the criteria discriminators, despite their limitations, were associated with relatively clearly defined profile types; however, these profile types are not conceptually coherent. Third, the present analysis suggests that at least the following profile types should be considered as targets of future research in CEDA paradigm use: value-comparison and argument skills, argument skills and hypothesis testing, argument critic, stock issues, and analytic centered. Finally, the descriptive boundaries between paradigms are porous and unreliable. The low correlation distinctiveness between profile types indicated that paradigm adherence by critics is not a highly valued behavior. Elaboration of criteria discriminators should reveal whether the traditional or profile candidates do support taxonomic elements which would inform debaters of real differences existing among their judge-critics. (One figure and nine tables of data are included; 19 endnotes and 14 references are attached.) (MG)

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A Taxonomy of CEDA Debate Critics

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A Taxonomy of CEDA Debate Critics

The study in progress is an attempt to develop a taxonomy of CEDA debate critics based upon their decision criteria. It is exploratory in at least two dimensions. First, the study attempts to associate (1) professed judging philosophy and (2) responses to survey questions with (3) ballot behavior. While statements on judging philosophies and preferences expressed through survey instruments may be taken as "ought" statements, the pattern of decision criteria employed on ballots constitutes actual practice. One expects to find consistency between the philosophies and surveys on one hand and the ballots, on the other.

Second, the study attempts to develop "judging profiles." Unlike NDT debate (characterized by fairly well-articulated "paradigms"), CEDA debate offers less well-defined (let alone accepted) perspectives regarding how rounds should be evaluated. Our development of "judging profiles" is an attempt to discover (1) whether tacit paradigms exist in CEDA and (2) what elements these paradigms may contain. A taxonomy of debate critics would allow standardized review of judges' work products (ballots and philosophies) and would encourage development of sound principles of criticism on ballots. It also would assist educators in organizing and conducting debate training, and facilitate pedagogical organization of forensic literature.

This manuscript reports the second part of a pilot study. Analysis of the first part (Dudczak and Day 1989) addressed the

correspondence among preferences expressed through judge philosophy statements, responses to a survey instrument, and comments/decision criteria expressed on debate ballots. An attempt at defining emergent "judging profiles" is reported in this manuscript.

Justification for this investigation lies in the scarcity of information about debate critic decision criteria. Previous researchers attempted to determine whether judging behavior corresponded with the assumed characteristics of decision paradigms.

The earliest investigations (Cox 1974; Cross & Matlon 1978; Thomas 1977) were limited to NDT debate. They shared a limitation common to subsequent studies (Buckley 1983; Lee, Lee & Seeger 1983; Gaske, Kugler & Theobald 1985) in that they relied exclusively on self-report. Although data acquired by such means may reflect prevailing attitudes within the forensic community, they do not validate whether reported preferences actually are applied as criteria in the resolution of debate rounds. Moreover, although the Gaske, Kugler, and Theobald research attempted to discriminate among CEDA judging paradigms, it relied upon unequal (and generally subcritical) cell sizes that violated the assumptions of parametric statistical analysis (61-65). Judges may have articulated perspectives in instruments used for any of these studies which they subsequently abandoned in their judging behavior.

Only three studies have taken the artifacts of debate as the

basis for analysis. Bryant (1983) compared selected NDT and CEDA debates in order to analyze the application of evidence. His results are contaminated, however, by a failure to control for differences in time format and competitors' varying skill and experience levels (3-4).

Hollihan, Riley, and Austin (1983) investigated "themes" differentiating CEDA critics from their NDT counterparts. They employed content analysis to compare ballots written by critics judging under the two debate formats. Results indicated that CEDA judges hold different "visions" than those embraced by NDT critics.

However, Hollihan et al limited the comparison of judges and their decision criteria in two important ways. First, they treated CEDA (and NDT) judges as undifferentiated within type. No comparisons were made among CEDA critics (or NDT critics). These assumptions are suspect when applied to NDT judges because it is commonly held that they apply competing paradigms (Cox 1974; Cross & Matlon 1978; Thomas 1977). There also is reason to expect that varying judging perspectives operate in CEDA debate (Buckley 1983).

Second, Hollihan et al only looked at ballot comments as an artifact of paradigm. Without knowledge of a judge's prior preferences regarding debate practice or theory, one cannot determine whether the absence of ballot comments reflects debater adaptation to the critic, inconsistency on the part of the judge, or a simple lack of relevant paradigmatic stimuli in a given

round. At the time of the Hollihan et al research, CEDA had not yet instituted a national tournament, with its judge philosophy booklet. NDT had employed judge philosophies since the 1970s. Thus, differences in ballot comments reported by Hollihan et al may reflect, in part, the greater availability of judging preference statements for NDT judges.

Now that CEDA judge philosophy statements are available from the national tournament, the levels of consistency between professed philosophy and actual ballots can be analyzed. Dudczak and Day (1989) assessed levels of consistency among philosophy statements, questionnaires, and debate ballot critiques. They reported only two items from the questionnaire that correlated even moderately with comparable ballot comments¹. Judging paradigm preferences indicated on the questionnaire yielded thirteen additional moderately strong correlations with ballot comments.² (12-14)³ When consistency of critic response across the two work products and instrument were computed, judges' alleged preferences were consistent with their actual behavior little more than half the time (Mean = 54.9%).⁴

Dudczak and Day also found that critics devoted a greater proportion of their elimination round ballots to decision criteria (vs. critique) and to substantive elements (vs. presentational elements) compared to their preliminary round ballots. (17-18) Their data failed to support hypotheses that ballots written by critics employing audience-centered paradigms feature (1) proportionally more presentational (vs. substantive)

elements and (2) more critique (vs. decision) comments than ballots by analytic-centered judges (16-17).⁵

The Dudczak and Day pilot study also has serious limitations, however. The numbers of critics (13) and ballots (170) analyzed are neither sufficient for statistical significance nor representative of the national population of CEDA debate critics, having been drawn exclusively from the Northeastern region. Inter-coder reliability was not assessed for the content analysis of ballots and philosophies because of time and funding constraints.⁶ Finally, the worksheets used for data reduction of philosophies and ballots need to be revised so as to identify paradigm preferences more discretely and to discriminate among variables differentiating judge-specific ballot behavior. (19-21)

The study reported here is an extension of the Dudczak and Day pilot study analysis reported at the 6th SCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation in Alta, Utah (August 1989). It is guided by the following research questions:

- #1 Which traditionally recognized paradigms are sufficiently distinct in terms of decision criteria to stand alone as taxonomic elements, and which should be merged with others based upon actual ballot behavior?
- #2 What key decision criteria (discriminators) characterize candidate taxonomic elements by clustering with other dimension criteria for specified profile types?
- #3 What is the strength of association between candidate profile types and key criteria discriminators? Is the association stronger for traditional paradigms or for new profile types examined in the current study?
- #4 How do the profiles rank to one another based upon their mean predictive ability?

METHOD

The current analysis begins from Dudczak and Day's correlation of professed judging paradigms with selected ballot decision criteria (Table 1). That correlation attempted to identify discriminants which may characterize judging paradigms.

Structured data (from the questionnaire and from the template portions of debate ballots) and unstructured data (from written portions of ballots and judging philosophies) were integrated in that previous analysis. The advantage of using both survey research and content analysis is that the two techniques generate complementary findings which are more valid than those obtained when using either alone (Paisley 1969; Webb and Roberts 1969). Options offered in structured instruments reflect preconceptions held by the researcher. Respondents' choices are dictated by the instrument. Content analysis, on the other hand, begins with a view of reality held by the subject and attempts to conform that view to the analytic scheme of the researcher (Holsti 1969; Krippendorff 1980).

Subjects:

Subjects used in this pilot study were debate critics who judged debate rounds at CEDA tournaments in the Northeast during the Spring 1989 season.

Material:

Work products and the instrument examined in this study included 1) judging philosophies solicited prior to tournaments, 2) ballots completed during competition at tournaments, and 3) a

structured questionnaire administered at tournaments following completion of a majority of the rounds (typically after Round Five).

Twenty subjects completed the questionnaire. Philosophy statements for 16 of these respondents were gathered at one of five tournaments from which ballots were obtained or were taken from the 1988 CEDA national tournament philosophy book. Ballots in sufficient number for analysis (six or more) were available for 17 of the 20 subjects.

The study was unable to use 35 percent of the questionnaires because subjects had completed too few ballots or because no judging philosophy statement was available for the critic. Nearly 70 percent of 551 available ballots also were lost, largely because there was no questionnaire for the critic. Some ballots also were unusable because no philosophy statement was available.

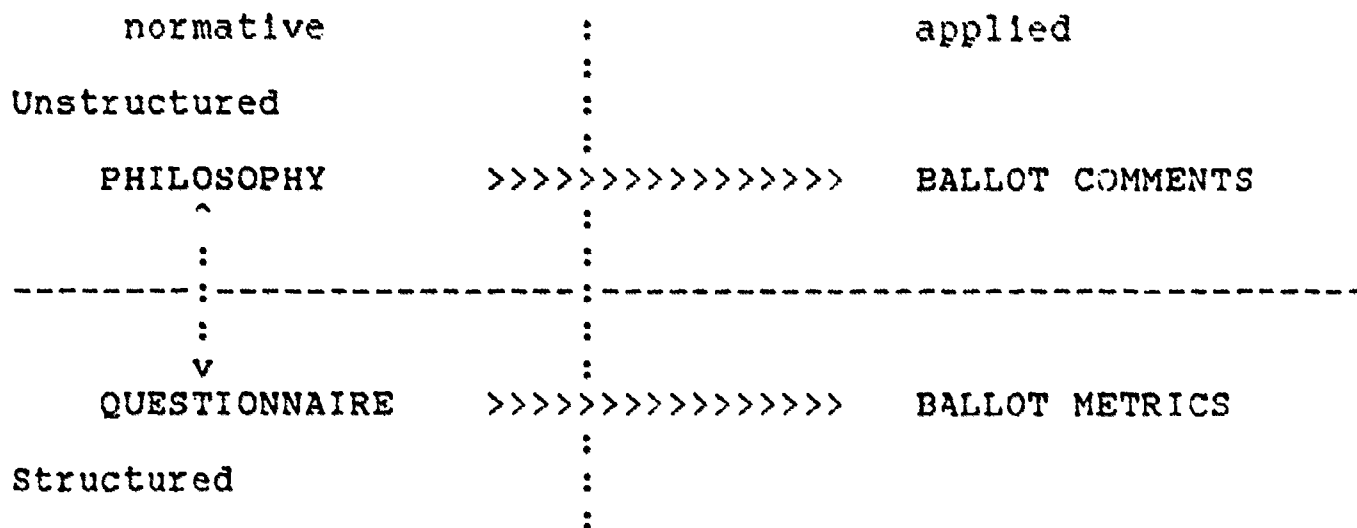
In all, 13 critics had sufficient quantities of all three measures (questionnaire, philosophy and ballots) to be included in the pilot study. Twenty of their ballots were blank, therefore unused. The small number of critics used for the pilot study seriously limits generalizability of results. Nevertheless, findings do serve to validate the instruments and procedures for subsequent research.⁷

The one instrument and two work products used in the study may be visualized conceptually in a two-by-two table. Both the philosophy and questionnaire are normative ("ought") documents;

ballots are applied (i.e., actual behavior). The philosophy and comment portions of ballots are unstructured; the questionnaire and template (top) portions of ballots are structured. Using these distinctions, future study may examine content, construct and predictive validity of these types of documents.

FIGURE 1

Construct and technique matrix of tools in the study



Procedure:

A two-page questionnaire incorporating 35 Likert Scale items, six yes/no selections, two multiple option questions, and five single-selection choices was administered to judges at CEDA debate tournaments. Two of these questions were repeated from Buckley (1983) in an attempt to partially replicate the earlier study. The questionnaire was administered with little advance publicity, in order to prevent critics from modifying their decision criteria in anticipation of the study.

Official ballots submitted by judges at five Spring 1989 CEDA tournaments comprised the second source of data. One hundred and ninety ballots were analyzed, of which 170 (89.5%) were usable. These ballots were distributed among the thirteen judges such that each critic's share of the sample pool fell within $\pm 50\%$ of random share.

The third source of data was the judging philosophy statements, already described. The majority of work products and questionnaires were collected at the Syracuse Debate Invitational tournament held during the last week of January 1989. Additional data were collected at other CEDA tournaments in the Northeast during the spring semester (Marist, Richmond, Cornell and William & Mary).

Formal processing began with tabulation and statistical analysis of the questionnaire instrument. A univariate analysis revealed nine discriminants influencing decisions^a. From this review a set of research concerns was developed. Next, ballot templates were developed. Then a content analysis of the judging philosophies and ballot comment sections was conducted. An attempt was made to correlate ballot and philosophy content variables to elements addressed by the survey. The study also examined the proportion and consistency of ballot comments regarding debaters vs. ballet critiques addressed to the resolution of issues.

Analytic procedures to assess each of the research questions were devised. For research question #1, analysis attempted to

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discriminate two sets of paradigms: (1) paradigm pairs which were atypically similar in terms of key decision criteria, and (2) those which are atypically dissimilar on the same criteria. Paradigm pairs which are atypically similar become candidates for merger with each other as taxonomic elements because they reflect the same underlying ballot behavior. Paradigm pairs which are atypically dissimilar become candidate taxonomic elements of their own because they appear to reflect unique aspects of ballot behavior. The compatibility of components within each candidate pair is assessed by examining the ratio of correlations for each key discriminator. Candidate profile pairs are identified by merging similar paradigms or isolating components of dissimilar pairs.

For research question #2, controlling for each selected profile type in turn, correlations were generated among all key discriminators to identify associations among discriminators as a description of profile type. Audience Centered and Analytic Centered metaparadigms posited by Dudczak and Day were included.

For research question #3, each candidate profile type was correlated with each of the three key criteria discriminators (Qualanal, Afburden, and Evapl) to identify reasonably strong associations as potentially descriptive of the target profile types. Each profile's correlations (for each discriminator) were compared to the corresponding mean for all profiles of the alternate type (traditional versus suggested candidates) to determine whether traditional or candidate profiles show stronger

relationships with key discriminators.

For reserach question #4, the absolute mean for all key discriminators for each profile type was ranked, assigning the highest rank to the highest mean correlation. This allowed paradigms to be compared on aggregate strength of key discriminator.

RESULTS

Preliminary analysis in Dudczak and Day (1989) compared judging paradigms with reasons for decision cited in debate ballots. Correlations suggested that several clusters of ballot behavior were characteristic of various paradigms. Table 1 presents the associations found between paradigms and ballot behavior for the list of discriminants selected. These correlations, while falling below the conventional .80,^a suggest judging behaviors which transcend paradigm preference.

TABLE 1

Paradigms vs. reasons for decision

| ----- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| • | | | | | | |
| BALLOT COMMENTS | | | | | | |
| PROFESSED | CNTRIN | TOPICL | QUALANL | EVCONTX | AFBURDN | EVAPL |
| Tabula Rasa | ND | .043 | .049 | .698 | .316 | .098 |
| Value Comparison | .674 | .012 | .021 | .696 | .052 | .078 |
| Policy Implications | ND | .024 | .068 | ND | .024 | .110 |
| Argument Skills | .669 | .012 | .010 | .694 | .127 | .095 |
| Argument Critic | .644 | .046 | .553 | .685 | .122 | .472 |
| Stock Issues | ND | .064 | .015 | ND | .449 | .143 |
| Public Audience | ND | .166 | .001 | ND | .126 | .193 |
| Hypothesis Testing | ND | .089 | .025 | .693 | .207 | .156 |
| Judicial Model | .661 | .086 | .589 | .691 | .145 | .132 |
| Other | ND | .143 | .564 | ND | .202 | .240 |
| ----- | | | | | | |

ND = Insufficient Data

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Research question #1 asked whether the traditional paradigms should be merged with others or stand as sufficiently distinct taxonomic elements. Of the six ballot discriminants, only three (Quality of Analysis, Affirmative Burden of Proof, and Evidence Applicability) revealed potential patterns of similarity and difference among the paradigms. To further test associations among the several paradigms, potentially similar paradigm pairs were merged and potentially distinct (isolated) pairs of paradigms were contrasted on discriminant items. This was done by matching the discriminant correlations of the ten paradigms (from Table 1) to one another. The goal was to determine how many of the discriminants were present in common for each paradigm pair. The following pattern of commonality was obtained on the six key discriminators (Table 2).¹⁰

TABLE 2

Commonality of Correlations Among Paradigms on Key Discriminators

NUMBER OF MATCHES PER PARADIGM PAIR (1,2)

| | TR | VC | PI | AS | AC | SI | PA | HT | JM | OT |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TR | -- | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| VC | | -- | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| PI | | | -- | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| AS | | | | -- | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| AC | | | | | -- | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| SI | | | | | | -- | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| PA | | | | | | | -- | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| HT | | | | | | | | -- | 4 | 3 |
| JM | | | | | | | | | -- | 3 |
| OT | | | | | | | | | | -- |

The presence of apparent similarity between four pairs of paradigms (those which have five or six similar correlations for the six discriminators) suggests that an underlying common element exists. This may indicate indistinctive boundaries between the paradigms. These paradigms may be merged to their matched counterparts:

- Value Comparison - Argument Skills
- Argument Skills - Hypothesis Testing
- Argument Skills - Judicial Model
- Argument Critic - Judicial Model

Of these four candidate merged pairs of paradigms, two (AS-JM and AC-JM) exhibited high ratios between component paradigm correlations on each of two key discriminators (Quality of Analysis for AS-JM and Applicability of Evidence for AC-JM). This suggests that these pairs are not sufficiently similar to be considered further as combined candidate profiles.¹¹

The other two pairs (Value Comparison - Argument Skills and Argument Skills - Hypothesis Test) are relatively similar in terms of the key discriminators.¹² Table 3 presents the key criteria discriminators characteristic of potential merge pairs.

TABLE 3

Key Criteria Discriminators Characteristic of Profile Merge Pairs

| CRITERIA DISCRIMINATORS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|--------|----------|------|-------|-------|---|-------|------|-------|-------|
| QUALANAL | | | | : | AFBURDEN | | | | : | EVAPL | | | |
| P1 | P2 | Ratio | M | : | P1 | P2 | Ratio | M | : | P1 | P2 | Ratio | M |
| VC-AS | .021 | .010 | 2.1 | .000: | .052 | .127 | 2.4 | -.070 | : | .078 | .095 | 1.2 | .100 |
| AS-HT | .010 | .025 | 2.5 | .015: | .127 | .207 | 1.6 | .170 | : | .095 | .156 | 1.6 | -.150 |
| AS-JM | .010 | .589 | 58.9 | -.010: | .127 | .145 | 1.1 | -.170 | : | .095 | .132 | 1.4 | -.130 |
| AC-JM | .553 | .589 | 1.1 | -.140: | .122 | .145 | 1.2 | -.170 | : | .472 | .132 | 3.6 | -.150 |

Notes:

1. Intent is to validate merger of selected pairs of paradigms.
2. P1 = First traditional paradigm; P2 = second traditional paradigm; Ratio = P1:P2; M = Correlation of P1 and P2 together with the target discriminator.

None of the merge pairs is correlated strongly enough with any of the key discriminators to assign a discriminator as characteristic of the candidate profile type based solely on this analysis. In all cases, the correlation of merged pairs with key discriminators is lower than correlations of each of the pair's components to the same discriminators. However, this may be a statistical artifact of combining originally independent paradigms.¹³

Analysis then attempted to determine which traditionally recognized paradigms were sufficiently distinct to stand alone as taxonomic elements. The ten paradigms were matched on the six discriminators (from Table 1) to determine patterns of dissimilarity. The greater the number of "mismatched" discriminators should indicate distinctiveness.¹⁴

TABLE 4

Lack of Commonality Among Paradigms on Key Discriminators

NUMBER OF MISMATCHES PER PARADIGM PAIR (1,2)

| | TR | VC | PI | AS | AC | SI | PA | HT | JM | OT |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TR | -- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| VC | | -- | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| PI | | | -- | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| AS | | | | -- | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| AC | | | | | -- | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| SI | | | | | | -- | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| PA | | | | | | | -- | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| HT | | | | | | | | -- | 1 | 1 |
| JM | | | | | | | | | -- | 0 |
| OT | | | | | | | | | | -- |

From the preceding analysis, seven paradigm pairs are sufficiently dissimilar in correlation levels on key discriminators to warrant further consideration of their component paradigms as independent taxonomic elements:

Argument Critic - Stock Issues
 Tabula Rasa - Argument Critic
 Value Comparison - Argument Critic
 Policy Implications - Argument Critic
 Argument Skills - Argument Critic
 Argument Critic - Hypothesis Tester
 Stock Issues - Judicial Model

It is notable that Argument Critic is featured most prominently, suggesting that it has relatively well-defined descriptive boundaries and should therefore be considered as an independent taxonomic element. Stock Issues is the only other paradigm which appears separated from at least two other paradigms²⁵. Table 5 identifies the key criteria discriminators characteristic of the

profile isolate pairs.

TABLE 5

Key Criteria Discriminators Characteristic of Profile Isolates

| CRITERIA DISCRIMINATORS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|----|----------|-------|-----|----|-------|-------|-----|
| QUALANAL | | | | : | AFBURDEN | | | : | EVAPL | | |
| P1 | P2 | Ratio | : | P1 | P2 | Ratio | : | P1 | P2 | Ratio | |
| AC-SI | .553 | .015 | 36.9 | : | .122 | .449 | 3.9 | : | .472 | .143 | 3.3 |
| TR-AC | .049 | .553 | 11.2 | : | .316 | .122 | 2.6 | : | .098 | .472 | 4.8 |
| VC-AC | .021 | .553 | 26.3 | : | .052 | .122 | 2.4 | : | .078 | .472 | 6.1 |
| PI-AC | .001 | .553 | 553.0 | : | .126 | .122 | 1.0 | : | .193 | .472 | 2.5 |
| AS-AC | .010 | .553 | 55.3 | : | .127 | .122 | 1.0 | : | .095 | .472 | 5.0 |
| AC-HT | .553 | .025 | 22.1 | : | .122 | .207 | 1.7 | : | .472 | .156 | 3.0 |
| SI-JM | .015 | .589 | 39.3 | : | .449 | .145 | 3.1 | : | .143 | .132 | 1.1 |

Notes: P1 = First traditional paradigm; P2 = Second traditional paradigm; Ratio = P1:P2

Of the seven candidate isolate pairs of paradigms in Table 5, one (PI - AC) has low ratios between component paradigm correlations on each of two discriminators (Affirmative Burden of Proof and Applicability of Evidence). This suggests that this pair is not sufficiently dissimilar to consider its component paradigms to be bonafide profile types separately. However, the strong dissimilarities shown by the Argument Critic within other pairs suggests that only Policy Implications would be dropped from further consideration.

Four other candidate isolate pairs of paradigms (VC - AC, AS - AC, AC - HT, and SI - JM) have low ratios between component paradigm correlations on one key discriminator each (in three cases Affirmative Burden, in one case Applicability of Evidence).

This suggests that some component of these pairs weakens the discriminatory boundary necessary to isolate the paradigm as a candidate profile type. Some components of these pairs (e.g., Argument and Stock Issues) also are part of strongly discriminant pairs, and therefore, should continue to be considered as profile types. Their potentially weaker mates (VC, AS, HT, and JM) can be eliminated from further consideration.

The combined analysis of merged and isolate candidate pairs identifies four candidate profile types which warrant further study: Value Comparison - Argument Skills and Argument Skills - Hypotheses Testing as candidate merge pairs, and Argument Critic and Stock Issues as isolate profile types.

Research question #2 asked what key decision criteria (discriminators) characterized candidate taxonomic elements by clustering with other dimension criteria. That is, do the three key discriminators combine to distinguish the candidate taxonomic elements? In addition to the four candidate profile types elicited from research question #1, the two candidate profiles supported in Dudczak and Day (1989) -- Audience Centered¹⁶ and Analytic Centered¹⁷ -- as well as the Tabula Rasa paradigm¹⁸ were included. Table 6 reports correlations among all key discriminators to identify associations among discriminators as a description of profile type.

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TABLE 6

Within-Group Correlation of Criteria Discriminators

| | | Criteria Discriminators | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|-------|
| | | QUALANAL | AFBURDEN | EVAPL |
| <u>Traditional Paradigms</u> | | | | |
| Argument Critic | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | -0.13 | 0.21 |
| | AFBURDEN | -0.13 | -- | -0.11 |
| | EVAPL | 0.21 | -0.11 | -- |
| Stock Issues | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | 0.25 | -0.24 |
| | AFBURDEN | 0.25 | -- | -0.24 |
| | EVAPL | -0.24 | -0.24 | -- |
| :-- Tabula Rasa | | | | |
| : | QUALANAL | -- | 0.12 | 0.10 |
| : | AFBURDEN | 0.12 | -- | 0.39 |
| : | EVAPL | 0.10 | 0.39 | -- |
| :-- Non-Tabula Rasa | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | 0.06 | -0.09 |
| | AFBURDEN | 0.06 | -- | -0.02 |
| | EVAPL | -0.09 | -0.02 | -- |
| <u>Candidate Profiles</u> | | | | |
| Value Comparison-Argument Skills | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | -0.15 | 0.31 |
| | AFBURDEN | -0.15 | -- | 0.30 |
| | EVAPL | 0.01 | 0.30 | -- |
| Argument Skills-Hypothesis Test | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | 0.14 | 0.07 |
| | AFBURDEN | 0.14 | -- | -0.06 |
| | EVAPL | 0.07 | -0.06 | -- |
| Audience Centered | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | -0.16 | 0.02 |
| | AFBURDEN | -0.16 | -- | 0.10 |
| | EVAPL | 0.02 | 0.10 | -- |
| Analytic Centered | | | | |
| | QUALANAL | -- | 0.08 | -0.05 |
| | AFBURDEN | 0.08 | -- | 0.16 |
| | EVAPL | -0.05 | 0.16 | -- |

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Of the seven candidate profile types, only three (Stock Issues, Tabula Rasa, Value Comparison-Argument Skills) exhibit correlations which might be useful in associating key discriminators as part of a description of the target profile type. Highly similar (although low) correlations (.24) among all three key discriminators for Stock Issues hint that these criteria may contribute to the definition of a Stock Issues taxonomical element. Higher (but still low) correlations (.39) between Affirmative Burden and Applicability of Evidence are associated in the context of Tabula Rasa. Comparison of Tabula Rasa to non-Tabula Rasa suggests this association truly is characteristic of Tabula Rasa critics. A roughly equal correlation (.30) existed between the same two discriminators for the combined Value-Comparison-Argument Skills profile type.²⁰

No clustering of discriminators is indicated for Audience Centered or Analytic Centered profile types.

In summary of results on research question #2, Affirmative Burden and Applicability of Evidence may be characteristic of Tabula Rasa and Value Comparison-Argument Skills profile types. All three discriminators may be characteristic of the Stock Issues profile type.

Research question #3 sought to determine whether traditional paradigms or new (candidate) profile types were more closely associated with key criteria discriminators. To test this question, each profile's correlations (for each discriminator) was compared to the corresponding mean for all profiles of the

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alternate type (traditional vs. suggested candidates). Table 7 reports these results.

TABLE 7

Traditional Paradigm and Candidate Profile
Correlations with Criteria Discriminators

| | Traditional Paradigms (1) | Candidate Profiles (2) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Traditional Paradigms</u> | | |
| Argument Critic | | |
| QUALANAL | -.110 | -.021 |
| AFBURDEN | -.115 | .017 |
| EVAPL | -.160 | .000 |
| Stock Issues | | |
| QUALANAL | .040 | -.021 |
| AFBURDEN | .520 | .017 |
| EVAPL | .160 | .000 |
| Tabula Rasa | | |
| QUALANAL | -.070 | -.021 |
| AFBURDEN | -.350 | .017 |
| EVAPL | -.110 | .000 |
| <u>Candidate Profiles</u> | | |
| Value Comparison - Argument Skills | | |
| QUALANAL | -.047 | .000 |
| AFBURDEN | .018 | -.070 |
| EVAPL | -.037 | .100 |
| Argument Skills - Hypothesis Test | | |
| QUALANAL | -.047 | .015 |
| AFBURDEN | .018 | .170 |
| EVAPL | -.037 | -.150 |
| Audience Centered | | |
| QUALANAL | -.047 | -.050 |
| AFBURDEN | .018 | .030 |
| EVAPL | -.037 | .090 |
| Analytic Centered | | |
| QUALANAL | -.047 | .060 |
| AFBURDEN | .018 | .310 |
| EVAPL | -.037 | .240 |

Notes:

1. Correlation between profile types and criteria discriminators: actual for traditional paradigms, mean of traditional paradigms for candidate profiles.
2. Correlation between profile types and criteria discriminators: actual for candidate profiles, mean of candidate profiles for traditional paradigms.

Reasonably strong correlations were found within Stock Issues, Tabula Rasa and Analytic Centered profile types. Otherwise, no associations of any importance were seen.

The Stock Issues profile type was correlated fairly strongly (.52) with Affirmative Burden, in part confirming strength of cluster association findings from the previous analysis. Affirmative Burden also was fairly strongly associated (.35) with Tabula Rasa critics. The Analytic Centered profile exhibited moderate correlation with Affirmative Burden and Applicability of Evidence (.31 and .24, respectively).

All traditional paradigms showed stronger correlations to the key discriminators than the mean correlation for each discriminator shown by the proposed profile types.

Some new profile correlations were stronger than the mean correlation for traditional paradigms on key discriminators, especially for the Analytic Centered profile type. But generally speaking, traditional paradigms were more strongly associated with key discriminators than were new profile types.

Finally, research question #4 asked how the profiles ranked to one another based upon their predictive ability. To answer this question the absolute means for all key discriminators was calculated for each profile type. Each type was then ranked in

order of the highest mean correlation.

TABLE 8

Ranking of Mean Absolute Correlations of Traditional
Vs. Candidate Profile Types With Criteria Discriminators

| Profile Type | Traditional | Candidate | Mean Abs Correlation | Rank |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|------|
| Stock Issues | * | | .240 | 1 |
| Analytic Centered | | * | .203 | 2 |
| Tabula Rasa | * | | .177 | 3 |
| Argument Critic | * | | .140 | 4 |
| Argument Skills - Hypothesis Test | | * | .112 | 5 |
| Value Comparison - Argument Skills | | * | .057 | 6 |
| Audience Centered | | * | .057 | 6 |

None of the seven candidate profiles correlated strongly with the key criteria discriminators. However, ranking the profiles by mean correlation did emphasize earlier findings that traditional paradigms are more strongly correlated to the key discriminators than are any of the suggested new profiles. Additionally, only Stock Issues showed a moderately strong (.24) correlation to key discriminators.

DISCUSSION

Analyses in this report suggest direction for further investigation. In all instances these suggestions are nominal given the subcritical sample size upon which these analyses were based. Nevertheless, the data show consistent patterns which at least warrant the pursuit of taxonomic elements. The following

(Table 9) summarizes the patterns of associations revealed.

TABLE 9

Summary of Associations

| <u>Paradigm/Profile</u> | <u>Characteristics</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tabula Rasa | Affirmative Burden, Applicability of Ev |
| Value Comparison- | Affirmative Burden, Applicability of Ev |
| Argument Skills | |
| Stock Issues | Affirmative Burden, Applicability of Ev, Quality of Analysis |
| Argument Skills- | -- |
| Hypothesis Testing | |
| Argument Critic | -- |
| Audience Centered | -- |
| Analytic Centered | -- |

First, analysis revealed that traditional paradigms are associated more strongly to key discriminators than are merged or new profile types. Given the limited number of discriminators (Quality of Analysis, Affirmative Burden, and Applicability of Evidence) utilized, it would be premature to dismiss the possibility of alternate taxonomic elements. Subsequent research needs to extract a richer set of discriminants, which could then be applied to both traditional paradigms as well as to candidate profiles.

Second, the criteria discriminators, despite their limitations, are associated with relatively clearly defined profile types. However, the profile types with which these discriminants are associated are not conceptually coherent. The Stock Issues paradigm, for instance, with its location of

presumption with existing institutions, has a coherent relationship with the discriminant "Affirmative Burden of Proof." Tabula Rasa, on the other hand, which does not presuppose the location of presumption, is not coherent with Affirmative Burden of Proof as one of its discriminants.

The question of coherence between paradigm profile types with criteria discriminators requires that future research consider two procedures: (1) define paradigm characteristics so far as they have been defined by their literature, and (2) incorporate paradigm characteristics into the criteria discriminators for subsequent analysis.

Third, the present analysis suggests that at least the following profile types should be considered as targets of future research in CEDA paradigm use: Value-Comparison - Argument Skills, Argument Skills - Hypothesis Testing, Argument Critic, Stock Issues, and Analytic Centered. Three of these profiles (Stock Issues, Hypothesis Testing, and Value Comparison - Argument Skills) received support across more than one measurement while Argument Centered, Argument Critic, and Argument Skills - Hypothesis Testing were suggested by one of the manipulations.

Finally, the descriptive boundaries between paradigms are porous and unreliable. The low correlation distinctiveness between profile types (even when using traditional paradigms) suggests that paradigm adherence by critics is not a highly valued behavior. Lack of critic consistency was identified

previously in Dudczak and Day (1989) as due to the employment of multiple paradigms by critics. Nearly all critics (94%) were willing to use an alternate paradigm to the preference if asked to do so by debaters. If critics are inconsistent in applying their professed criteria in actual ballot behavior, paradigms diminished in their value of predicting or understanding decision rules employed by the judge critic.

Further research clearly requires a larger and more representative sample. The analytic procedures employed in the current analysis are applicable to an expanded database. Elaboration of criteria discriminators should reveal if the traditional or profile candidates do support taxonomic elements which would inform debaters of real differences existing among their judge-critics.

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ENDNOTES

1. There was an observed correlation ($r = .699$) between critics' survey response "evidence out of context" and the presence of this element in their ballots. Similarly, there was an observed correlation ($r = .698$) between the survey response "quality of analysis" and ballot comments addressing "evidence out of context."
2. Tabula rasa, Value Comparison, Argument Skills, Hypothetical Testing, Judicial Model, and Argument Critic all similarly correlated ($r = .698$ to $.685$) with the presence of comments addressing "evidence out of context" on critics' ballots. Value Comparison, Argument Skills, Judicial Model, and Argument Critic correlated with comments addressing "counterintuitive arguments" in their ballots ($r = .674$ to $.644$). Critics identifying with the Judicial Model and claiming to be Argument Critics were likely to cite "quality of analysis" ($r = .589$ to $.553$) in their decisions.
3. Page numbers for "A Profile of CEDA Debate Critics" are by page count. The format for papers presented at the 1977 Summer Argumentation Conference requires that manuscripts be submitted without pagination. The manuscript from the 1977 Conference is currently under review for its publication in the proceedings.
4. The highest consistency rating for a single critic was 66.9%, while the lowest consistency rating was 34.2%.
5. Data tested by the two hypotheses skewed in the expected direction, but results did not approach statistical significance ($p < .05$).

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6. Dudczak and Day used a single coder for content analysis of the ballots and philosophy statements. However, this is defensible for a pilot (though not for an expanded sample). (See Krippendorff, K. Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology, 74.)
7. The survey instrument and content analysis worksheets were revised for a national sample underway during Fall 1997.
8. The nine discriminants were seven substantive (Affirmative fiat, Counterintuitive argument, Topicality, Quality of analysis, Evidence out of context, Aff Burden of proof, & Applicability of evidence) and two presentational (Eye contact and Obnoxious behavior) elements selected from the 35 Likert-like items.
9. Krippendorff, for instance, cites a correlation of .80 as necessary for provisional acceptance.
10. Pairs which are considered atypically similar in terms of key discriminants have a difference of no more than 0.1 correlation on five or more of the six discriminators.
11. Note that Judicial Model is a component of each weak pair.
12. Note that Argument Skills is a component of each strong pair.
13. When two paradigms are combined for correlation comparisons, an averaging effect of the two paradigms may operate to reduce the correlation of the combined paradigms compared with the single paradigm effect.
14. A paradigm pair is considered dissimilar when there was a difference of no less than 0.3 correlation on two or more discriminators.
15. Most paradigms appear to lack clear boundary definitions in terms of key discriminators. Even those pairs with few mismatches are questionable in their dissimilarity, i.e., Is a mismatch on only two of six discriminators adequate boundary definition?
16. Audience-centered combined Argument Skills, Argument Critic, and Public Audience.
17. Analytic-centered combined Value Comparison, Policy Implications, Stock Issues, Hypothesis Testing and Judicial Model.

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18. Tabula Rasa was identified by 63% of critics as a paradigm they employed. To test the candidate viability of Tabula Rasa, it was compared against critics who did not select it as a paradigm choice.
19. These results suggest a possible covariance between Affirmative Burden and Applicability of Evidence (both are of interest in future research).